

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been presented for examination. By the Office Action dated 6 April 2005, Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (US 2003/0023472). By this response, Claims 2-9 remain unchanged and Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-10 are therefore still pending. Given the reasons set forth below, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection of Claim 1 in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully but strongly submits that the cited document, Lee, does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant's amended Claim 1 recites a method for executing a work flow in a WFMS having at least one process instance executing an original process definition and migrating the process instance to a changed process definition. According to the method, each process instance is checked during the execution of the original process definition whether the process instance meets a migration condition. If the migration condition is met, each process instance is migrated during the execution of the original process definition to a modified process definition such that as a result of the migration, the process instance executes said modified process definition (page 3, lines 26-29).

The invention can advantageously be applied when long-running instances of processes according to a process definition are executed and the process definition has to be changed, e.g., due to external reasons. The invention provides a method that allows to migrate the running process instances such that after migrating, the running process instances conform to the changed process definition.

Lee describes a workflow environment comprising a workflow server (implementing a workflow engine) and workflow clients that execute workflow applications allowing users to perform workflow related actions. The execution of a workflow is described, in particular, the successive processing of workflow nodes, wherein, when proceeding from one node to a subsequent node, update information can be provided to the user at the subsequent node, i.e. to the user performing actions associated with the subsequent node using a workflow client. Further, a method for transferring data from the workflow engine

to an workflow application is disclosed. A calling entity (e.g. a workflow client) can request information on available resources and the workflow server can respond to such a request by sending a collection object including metadata elements to the calling entity.

The method and system described in Lee is not related to the migrating of a process instance from an original process definition to a modified process definition in the sense of the present invention, i.e., such that "as a result of the migration, the [migrated] process instance executes said modified process definition" (see amended claim 1).

The provision of update information as well as the locking and releasing of work flow items as described in Lee (paragraph [0119] lines 10-14 and lines 16-19) is performed when a workflow with a constant definition is executed, i.e., is not related to the migrating of process instances when a process definition has changed.

In particular, it is not disclosed in Lee to perform the steps "checking each process instance during the execution of the original process definition whether the process instance meets a migration condition; and migrating each process instance during the execution of the original process definition to a modified process definition if the migration condition is met such that said process instance executes said changed process definition" as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject matter of amended Claim 1 is clearly distinguished from what is disclosed by Lee and thus is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Lee.

Accordingly, dependent Claims 2-9 should also be allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Lee since they are dependent on amended Claim 1.

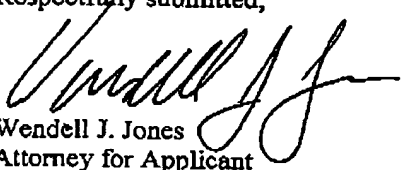
For an argumentation similar to the one above, amended claim 10 should be allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102.

In view of the discussions set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-10 should be found to be in condition for allowance.

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Hewlett-Packard Company  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Mail Stop 35  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,

  
Wendell J. Jones  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No.: 45,961  
Telephone No.: (650) 857-7453